

**Devotion Personified.**  
"The personal devotion of pupils sometimes takes unexpected turns," said the principal of one of the big New York boys' grammar school down on Henry street. Several of the little fellows got into the habit of coming to my desk at the noon recess and after school, anxious to 'do something for teacher,' and the assignment of some little task meant bliss and a distinction above their fellows for the rest of the day. One day at noon I gave a little chap a letter to post which I had written to a friend who lived up in One Hundred and Tenth street. He departed with an expansive grin, and did not return that day. Next morning he appeared with the grin still in evidence, and triumphantly deposited on my desk a much begrimed postage stamp, with the remark: 'There! I licked it off and tuk de letter up meself. I saved yer two cents fer you.'"

**Parrots Give Fire Alarm.**  
Five hundred parrots on the second floor of a Broadway, N. Y., bird store gave the first alarm of fire, which was raging on the first floor one evening recently, and brought firemen in time to save their lives and to check the blaze before much damage resulted. Their cries of alarm sounded so nearly like human being in distress that it was at first supposed persons were being burned or smothered in the building. "Fire! fire! Oh, Lordy!" were samples of the screams heard on the street. They aroused the janitor, who got a waiter in a nearby place to turn in an alarm.

**Violin Used 87 Years in Church.**  
The violin used by A. R. Beck at the Passion week and Easter services in the Moravian church, Litzitz, has been in use at those services for 87 years. Like all violins it improves the older it gets. It was made by Karl Friedrick Lippold at New Kirchen bei Ahdorf, Germany, in 1817, and was purchased through a Bethlehem music dealer by John William Rauch, a well-known Litzitz poet and musician. After his death it was purchased by Mr. Beck, who has used it 44 years. The edges are beautifully ornamented with pure ivory, and it is as good as new in appearance.

**Blue Pencils Still Plentiful.**  
Where do all the lead pencils come from—320,000,000 of them a year? Mostly from red cedar, which is almost indispensable for the purpose, since no substitute for it has yet been found possessing all the necessary qualities. Pencil cedar is the only wood which is always sold by the pound, and it is getting scarcer while the demand for pencils increases rapidly. A fortune awaits the man who shall hit upon a satisfactory substitute.

**Pessimism.**  
A certain man, who was recently reelected to a position that he had held for many years, met a friend who congratulated him on his continued good fortune. To this the other replied: "Yes, but it can't always last; I'll have to give it up some day. I feel a great deal like a man I knew who worked in one place for 40 years, and when discharged at last on account of old age remarked: 'Well, when I came here I knew I wouldn't have a steady job.'"

**Exposition of Zionism.**  
The Zionist central committee has published a 40-page pamphlet entitled "Ten Years of Zionism" for the purpose of "making the movement clear to all who are interested." The statistical part of the book shows that there are Zionist federations in the United States, Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Germany, England, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Austria, Roumania, Russia, South Africa, Switzerland and Hungary.

**Famous in Switzerland.**  
One of the historic bells in Switzerland is the silver bell in the minister at Bern. It rang "for the service of God, the festivals of state and the execution of the evil doer." When the forces of the young French republic captured Bern in 1798, the citizens painted it a funeral black, and under this disguise it escaped from the rapacity of the Gauls.—Sunday Magazine.

**Abnormal Appetite.**  
The sow that eats her pigs has an abnormal appetite. It is believed by hog feeders that this is caused by a deficiency in the food. A ration of corn meal with nothing to offset the high starchy proportion does not give the substances that the sow needs for the building up of her body. She seeks to satisfy the abnormal craving and the pigs suffer.

**Knew It in Advance.**  
"Halloa, Badger," said Thorpe; "met a friend of yours the other day. He's been talking about you, and I feel it my duty to tell you what he said." "Ah, well, I don't care to hear what he said. I know it was something disagreeable," replied Badger. "How do you know that?" "Because you are so anxious to tell it. Good morning."—Stray Stories.

**Temperance at Washington.**  
It is claimed that if half a score of society women in Washington will but say the word next winter will see the flowing bowl, the lively cocktail and the fizz abandoned at the dinners and receptions of the rich. The leaders of this movement profess every confidence in their ultimate success. Mrs. J. B. Henderson is at the head of the crusade against the use of intoxicants.

**Just Like a Man.**  
"John, the cook has left—" "Now, Gwendolyn, is it right to meet me with such news when I return home late from the office all tired out and hungry—" "But, John, dear, I merely want to say the cook has left—" "Yes, I know you 'merely want to say.' And I merely want to say that it's a whanged shame that this household is eternally disorganized. Other women manage to keep their servants. Why can't you? Why—" "John Smith, I tell you that the cook knew you would be late, so she left a cold chicken, a custard pudding and a pint of claret on the dining-room table for you." "Well, Gwendolyn, why in the name of common intelligence didn't you say that at first?"—Judge.

**Belonged to Him.**  
"She was my woman. I had a right to kill her." Morose and sullen, Max Kredich declared this in the Butler (Pa.) county jail the other day while he was awaiting trial for the murder of his wife. "I go free," protested the wife slayer, when the prospect of his trial was suggested. "It's none of their business." When he struck down his wife in their home at Lyndora last December, half a dozen boarders in his house strove to restrain him from abusing the little woman for an hour before he broke her neck with a blow of his bulky fist. Then he went at them with a butcher knife, shouting, "It is nobody's business if I kill her."

**Can Now Live at Home.**  
It is one of the possibilities, and even a probability, that the effect of the recent service pension law will be to take out of the soldiers' homes many old soldiers whose pensions, increased under the new provisions, will enable them to live at home, or with their relations. If this prove to be the case, it will make room for other veterans, those who need the refuge provided for disabled veterans, but who, thus far, have been crowded out. So good will come all round from the new pension law.

**German Industry Threatened.**  
The passing of the German meerschaum trade seems inevitable. Practically all the known deposits of meerschaum have been exhausted. In the last five months the price of the raw material has gone up 50 per cent. In a single town, Rubia, in the Thuringian forest, over 3,000 workmen have been employed in this industry. The only place where meerschaum is now found is in the mines of Eski-Schehr. The output there is small and most of it goes to England and America.

**A Big Sturgeon.**  
The largest sturgeon which has ever been landed at Aberdeen, was exposed for sale recently, at the fish market. The fish was caught by a local trawler, at the northern fishing grounds, and when weighed at Aberdeen turned the scale at 550 pounds. It was nine feet three inches in length, by about five feet in girth, and was sold by auction. Bidding was keen, and at £9 5s the sturgeon was knocked down.

**Greatest Barber Story Yet.**  
A wonderful family of barbers is that of Benjamin M. Youells, who lives at Easton, Pa., and who, although 87 years old, still wields a razor. Of his nine children, all of whom are living, the three sons are barbers and two of his six daughters can handle a razor as skillfully as a man. The other four daughters married barbers. Nine of his 11 grandchildren are barbers, and his seven great-grandchildren say they will become knights of the razor.

**Light That Is Real.**  
A happy man or woman is a better thing to find than a five-pound note. He or she is a radiating force of good will, and their entrance into a room is as though another candle had been lighted. We need not care whether they could prove the forty-seventh proposition. They do a better thing than that. They practically demonstrate the great theorem of the livableness of life.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

**\$8,000,000 Wall-Paper Design.**  
A new design in fancy wall-paper patterns comes from Kansas City; also a way to utilize canceled checks. A firm has had all its offices papered with old checks, placed neatly edge to edge. The face figures of the checks vary from \$30,000 to \$1,000 and the total for one room is \$8,000,000. As a gilt molding runs around the edges of each check panel, the general effect is rather pleasing.

**Health Note.**  
Physicians say that laughter is an aid to digestion. Therefore, be mirthful; the more the merrier. Young men should grin and young girls should giggle as much as possible. You may be thought silly, and this will occasion some concern on the part of your friends, but they will not be surprised.—Bohemian.

**A Fortunate Break.**  
An Italian named Ventura, who, in 1865, was condemned to death, has been liberated by King Victor Emmanuel III. He was about to be executed when a piece of the machinery broke. The spectators were so affected that they obtained the commutation of his sentence.

**Genius.**  
Mrs. Kawser—"How is Johnny getting along as a grocer's clerk?" Mrs. Crossway—"Well enough, I guess. He can tie up a package with a knot that you can't untie to save your life, and yet it'll come untied itself as soon as you get on the train with it."

**Golf Popular at Capital.**  
Golf claims the attention of many Washington officials seeking out-door recreation. Justice Harlan of the supreme court of the United States is one of the most notable of these. John E. Wilkie, chief of the secret service, is an enthusiastic follower of the golf ball, and is president of the Columbia Golf club, of which Henry L. West, one of the commissioners of the district, is a member. Frank H. Hitchcock, of Massachusetts, first assistant postmaster general, is one of the best all-round sportsmen in the capital. He is a boxer, a pedestrian and a golfer. He was one of the organizers of the Columbia club, but has not played since taking up his post office department duties.

**Joke on Lord Kelvin.**  
Lord Kelvin, when he was Sir William Thomson, had, as professor of natural philosophy, an assistant named Day, who took his lectures for him in his absence. When the professor returned the students would listen eagerly to him, and for the first ten minutes or so he spoke clearly and intelligently to all. By and by, however, some new idea would suggest itself, and he would follow it out in his lecture, getting more and more beyond the depth of his hearers, until at last not one of them could understand him. On one occasion a student remarked: "Work while it is yet Day, for the (k)night cometh when no man can work."

**A Sure Cure.**  
Lady Visitor (at office of eminent physician)—I have called, doctor, to ask if there is any cure for sleep-walking. I have had the habit for years, and lately it has become worse. Dr. Highprice—It can be cured, madam. Take this prescription, and have it filled at Colde, Steele & Co.'s. "Colde, Steele & Co.'s? Why, that is not a drug store. It is a hardware firm." "Yes, madam. The prescription calls for a paper of tacks. Dose—two tablespoonfuls scattered about the floor before retiring."—N. Y. Weekly.

**Queer Wedding Invitations.**  
Invitations to weddings in Wales are very businesslike. When the parents of the bride-to-be bid her friends to the ceremony, they bid them not to come empty handed. The cards say: "Whatever donations you may be pleased to bestow will be thankfully repaid whenever called for on a similar occasion. The parents of the bride and bridegroom-elect desire that all gifts due to them will be returned to them on the above date and will be thankful for all favors granted."

**Deer Hid Its Head.**  
Last winter some of the Berlin Mills company's men caught a deer and fed it in an abandoned camp for a few days. The way the deer was caught was rather peculiar. They chased him in the snow and the foolish deer, instead of running away, ran to a railroad of logs and stood with his head sticking under the logs between two cars. Like the ostrich he probably thought that as he couldn't see he couldn't be seen.

**The Usual Experience.**  
"When I was flush," said Ardruk, "and had more money than I knew what to do with, I was always receiving friendly offers of financial assistance from loan agencies; and now that I'm flat broke and can scarcely keep soul and body together, every mail brings me a circular from some trust company that wants me to put my surplus funds in gilt edge bonds. Blame it, that's what makes poverty so hard to bear!"

**Hide Warship Designs.**  
That strict secrecy which was observed in the construction at Fairfield, Glasgow, of the cruiser Indomitable will henceforth be enforced in the case of all ships built for the British navy. The staff will be sworn in before being entrusted with the carrying out of minute details and no one in the yard will be able to learn anything like complete details of warship designs.

**Family of Fighters.**  
Gen. John W. De Peyster, the New York veteran who has died at the age of 86, entered the military service of his state as early as 1846. In the civil war time he twice offered Lincoln three regiments, but conditions prevented the acceptance of the offers. Three of his sons served in the war and were made colonels by brevet before coming of age.

**In the Music Store.**  
"There is a new song I want," remarked the customer, "but I can't think of its name—something about a riot and a fight at Sing Sing or some such place." "I guess this must be it," ventured the new clerk, as he handed forth a copy of "The Village Church Choir."—The Bohemian.

**Made of Hair.**  
The hair of rabbits and other animals in Russia is converted into bowls, dishes and plates, which are valued for their strength, durability and lightness. The articles are similar in appearance to varnished leather.

**A Slow Chump.**  
Miss Koy—"Mr. Slowman declared he was going to kiss me last night, but he didn't." Miss Ascum—"Of course you indignantly repelled his advances." Miss Koy—"Oh, of course, but what difference should that make?"

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